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*To improve health
through leadership,
service and education.*



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May 1, 2007

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVE CEQA FINDING AND AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF
A DIGITAL MAMMOGRAPHY RADIOGRAPHIC/FLUOROSCOPY
SYSTEM AT EL MONTE COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTER
(1st District) (3 Votes)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
2. Authorize the acquisition of a digital mammography radiographic/fluoroscopy system at El Monte Comprehensive Health Center through the Los Angeles County Capital Asset Leasing (LAC-CAL) program at an estimated total five-year cost of \$539,330 which includes an equipment purchase cost of \$440,740 and interest cost of \$98,590.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

In approving the recommended actions, the Board is authorizing the purchase of major fixed asset equipment, specifically, a digital mammography radiographic/fluoroscopy (R/F) system at El Monte Comprehensive Health Center (El Monte). El Monte will use the new equipment to improve service delivery, reduce a current mammography procedure backlog and to aid physicians in the treatment and diagnosis of patients.

On October 16, 2001, your Board adopted a policy whereby departments must obtain Board approval to purchase or finance equipment with a unit cost of \$250,000 or greater prior to submitting their requisitions to the Purchasing Agent.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

The estimated purchase cost is \$440,740. The equipment will be acquired through a lease-purchase with a five year repayment term through the LAC-CAL program with interest costs estimated at \$98,590. The LAC-CAL purchase authorization and funding for the equipment lease payments are included in the facility's Fiscal Year 2006-07 Final Budget and appropriation for lease payments will be requested in future fiscal years.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

Over the past few years, the demand for mammography screening for breast cancer has increased. Currently, El Monte has one non-digital mammography unit, and a backlog of approximately 600 studies. To address the backlog, El Monte has scheduled patients for studies on weekends and evenings using overtime for the mammography-certified Radiologic Technologists. However, with the purchase and installation of a digital mammography R/F system, the backlog is expected to be eliminated within three months.

The demand for mammography studies cannot be met with one machine. The concurrent operation of a second machine will enable El Monte to perform the studies on a walk-in basis and reduce waiting time for scheduled appointments. Additionally, the digital equipment will produce clearer images, produce studies faster and the images can be sent electronically to physicians to read at remote locations.

The equipment purchase includes installation by the vendor and the installation does not require room renovation. LAC+USC Healthcare Network's Radiation Health Physicist will provide installation oversight.

A one-year warranty on parts and labor and a two-year pro-rated warranty on the x-ray tube are included in the purchase.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action meets the County's Strategic Plan goal of Service Excellence by promoting best practices for patient care and the goal of Fiscal Responsibility by investing in the public infrastructure.

Consistency with Department of Health Services' (DHS) System Redesign

This action meets DHS' strategic goals by improving the health care provided by DHS and enhancing the health of the residents of Los Angeles County.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT DOCUMENTATION:

The installation of this equipment is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines section 15301(a) and Class 1, Subsection (d) of the County of Los Angeles Revised Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987. Under this categorical exemption, minor alteration of existing structures, including installation of equipment which may require interior and exterior alterations of a building involving such things as interior partitions, exterior parapets, placement of walls, veneer facings and installation of false or drop ceilings, plumbing and electrical conveyances and heating and refrigeration systems, etc., is exempt.

CONTRACTING PROCESS:

The equipment acquisition falls under the statutory authority of the Internal Services Department Purchasing Agent, and the equipment will be competitively solicited by the Purchasing Agent in accordance with County Purchasing Policies and Procedures.

IMPACT ON CURRENT PROGRAM SERVICES (OR PROJECTS):

The digital mammography R/F system will significantly improve the availability of mammography services at El Monte.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
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Upon approval by the Board of Supervisors, the Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors is requested to return three adopted copies of this letter to DHS.

Respectfully submitted,



Bruce A. Chernof, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer

BAC:r
El Monte Mammo.rf.wpd

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Internal Services Department